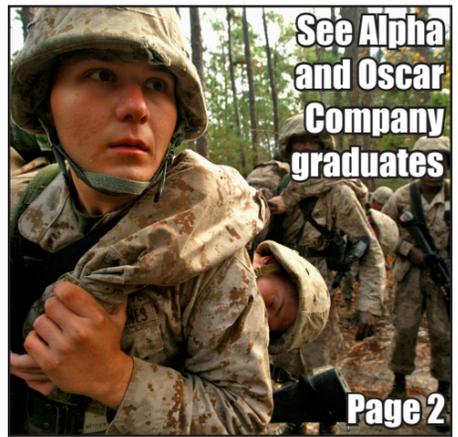


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Alpha and Oscar Company graduates

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DOWN TO THE WIRE

OSCAR COMPANY COMPLETES CRUCIBLE



PAGE 3

Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Rct. Erika Balasabas, a 24-year-old from Delano, Calif., and Platoon 4009, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, untangles her weapon from concertina wire while she crawls through a portion of Battle of Fallujah during the company's Crucible on March 23.

Recruits splash into training

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

Recruits from Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, and Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, took their training to new depths at the recruit training pool, Jan. 30 through Feb. 6.

During swim qualification week, recruits are taught and evaluated on basic water survival skills.

"It's all a part of becoming a well-rounded Marine," said Staff Sgt. Kristy Kayto, a Marine Combat Instructor-Trainer of Water Survival at the facility. "As a Marine, you're able to be sent anywhere at any time, so you have to be ready."

"They have enough knowledge to sustain water survival as basic Marines," she added. "We teach them the five water survival classes."

There are five tests recruits must pass before they are deemed basically trained in water survival. The recruits receive training before each test.

The five classes are: the shallow-water assessment, a self-rescue jump, the four-minute stay-on-surface, employed flotation, and the gear shed.

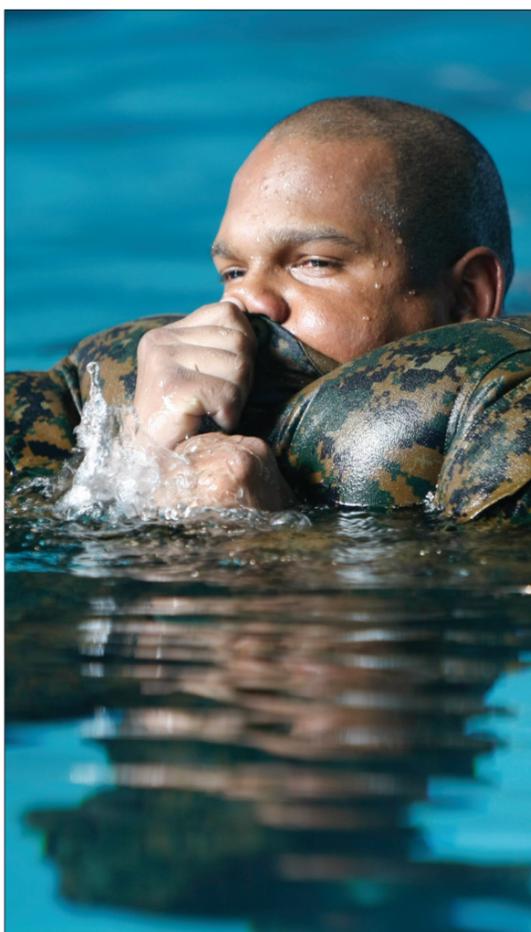


Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashlee McDonough

Rct. Christopher O'Connor, Platoon 1022, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, inflates his blouse to create a makeshift flotation device during his swim qualification at the recruit training pool Jan. 30.

The first test consists of a 25-meter shallow-water assessment, in which recruits must swim 25 meters in shallow water without touching the ground.

SEE SPLASH PAGE 4



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Recruits from Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, help one another reach the top of an obstacle at the Confidence Course on Jan. 25. The course is designed to instill recruits with confidence in themselves and their comrades.

Oscar reaches new heights

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

Oscar Company conquered their fears by completing the Confidence Course at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square on Jan. 25.

The course is made up of 14 obstacles, which are designed to test the recruits' confidence and faith in their fellow teammates.

"You need to have confidence in

yourself and the ability of your buddy to overcome the obstacles," said Staff Sgt. Samuel Baird, a martial arts instructor who oversaw the training. "A lot of times, they're scared to put themselves in somebody else's hands to accomplish the obstacle."

Some of the most difficult obstacles the recruits must conquer are the Slide for Life, Stairway to Heaven and

SEE OSCAR PAGE 6

NEWS BRIEF

Updates to off-limits establishments

Added: Island Republic, located at 1460 Fording Island Road in Bluffton, S.C.
Removed: Citgo Gas Station located at 32 Savannah Highway in Port Royal, S.C., and The Corner Store (ABC Liquor Store) located at 248 Robert Smalls Parkway in Beaufort, S.C., have been removed from the off-limits establishments list.

For more information, see Depot Order 1620.1A.

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Teacher earns the title

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Marine takes on two roles on ship

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Marine helps provide security for Afghans

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ALPHA & OSCAR COMPANY GRADUATES

Alpha Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. T. B. Mixon, Kennesaw, Ga.
Platoon 1016, Mixon was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Hernandez and trained by Staff Sgt. Compton

Pfc. B. T. Rogan, Warwick, N.Y.
Platoon 1018, Rogan was recruited by
Sgt. Martin and trained by Sgt. Halles

Pfc. J. R. Buoni, Clermont, Fla.
Platoon 1021, Buoni was recruited by
Sgt. Barnes and trained by Staff Sgt. Kelley

Pfc. C. W. Miller, Hollywood, Fla.
Platoon 1017, Miller was recruited by
Sgt. Kirsch and trained by Staff Sgt. Howard

Pfc. G. L. Stacey, Cincinnati
Platoon 1020, Stacey was recruited by
Sgt. Davis and trained by Sgt. Blankenship

Pfc. N. J. Jaconetta, Sicklerville, N.J.
Platoon 1022, Jaconetta was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Griffis and trained by Staff Sgt. Diaz

Oscar Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. E. D. Groves, Jacksonville, Fla.
Platoon 4008, Groves was recruited by
Sgt. Deceus and trained by Gunnery Sgt. Guillory

Pfc. J. L. Kinman, Crittenden, Ky.
Platoon 4009, Kinman was recruited by
Sgt. Dufrense and trained by Staff Sgt. Carillo

Platoon 1016

Pfc. C. L. Benton Jr., Pfc. J. M. Binkley, Pvt. J. J. Blaha, Pvt. A. D. Cameron, Pvt. D. J. Catterson, Pvt. A. W. Cooper, Pfc. J. M. Davis, Pfc. R. A. Davis, Pvt. J. D. Dearry, Pvt. J. V. Dweck, Pvt. S. K. Evans, Pfc. A. R. Faison, Pvt. P. B. Frank, Pvt. A. C. Gadsden, Pfc. B. C. Gauger, Pfc. J. D. Goble, Pvt. T. R. Godwin, Pfc. N. D. Hardy, Pfc. N. J. Harling, Pvt. J. R. James, Pvt. J. C. Jones, Pfc. J. M. Jones, Pfc. A. C. Lackey, Pvt. T. A. Laymon, Pvt. T. Lee, Pfc. C. A. Leger, Pvt. F. I. Manuel, Pvt. J. G. Martinescu, Pvt. C. R. McCloud, Pvt. I. D. Mclean, Pfc. T. B. Mixon, Pfc. T. H. Rich, Pfc. B. T. Ross, Pvt. P. J. Salisbury, Pvt. A. J. Smith, Pvt. A. R. Smith, Pfc. S. T. Sperry, Pvt. J. D. Steinhilber, Pvt. B. G. Sullivan, Pvt. S. M. Taylor, Pfc. S. J. Traylor, Pvt. P. J. Vaught, Pvt. A. W. Watts

Platoon 1017

Pfc. V. J. Arroliga, Pvt. A. O. Baker III, Pvt. D. W. Behe, Pvt. J. G. Boodoo, Pvt. R. N. Boodoo, Pfc. B. T. Braun, Pvt. R. G. Cameron, Pvt. N. D. Cella, Pvt. T. B. Chioma, Pvt. D. J. Corrier, Pvt. A. T. Diamond, Pvt. A. R. Dubreuil, Pfc. G. M. Edwards, Pvt. J. J. Filgueiras, Pfc. B. E. Gibson, Pvt. S. T. Graham, Pfc. D. T. Henley, Pfc. M. T. Jones, Pvt. S. J. Kelly Jr., Pfc. M. W. Kelso, Pvt. S. A. Lewis, Pfc. S. C. Lopez, Pvt. W. A. Luttrell IV, Pvt. M. J. Mcbroom, Pfc. P. J. Mcglone, Pvt. R. T. Mcneill, Pfc. Z. R. Mein, Pvt. M. L. Metts Jr., Pfc. C. W. Miller, Pvt. E. M. Montagna, Pvt. J. T. Moore, Pvt. D. R. Morey, Pvt. P. W. Morgan, Pfc. M. J. Northrop, Pvt. W. M. Pettit, Pvt. D. A. Pinkowski, Pfc. B. R. Remkus, Pfc. L. C. Rickett IV, Pfc. T. W. Robinson, Pfc. A. D. Schaffner, Pfc. A. L. Torres, Pvt. N. F. Walmsley, Pvt. W. D. Welsh, Pfc. G. M. Wilkerson, Pvt. K. S. Yumiguano, Pvt. J. A. Zeller

Platoon 1018

Pvt. M. H. Anthony, Pfc. A. J. Aragon, Pvt. M. W. Beam, Pfc. W. D. Burt Jr., Pvt. E. C. Camacho, Pvt. B. D. Cast, Pvt. C. A. Coates, Pfc. J. E. Davis IV, Pfc. B. M. Dean, Pfc. C. A. Edmonds, Pvt. L. M. Farley, Pvt. O. S. Francis, Pvt. D. A. Fuica, Pvt. N. M. Grohman, Pvt. B. Guerrero Jr., Pfc. N. W. Gustafson, Pvt. J. D. Harper III, Pfc. J. A. Hoffa, Pfc. M. B. Howard, Pfc. J. Huang, Pvt. C. S. Jordan, Pvt. B. R. King, Pfc. D. R. Kornfeind, Pvt. B. L. Lackey, Pvt. S. T. Laster, Pfc. T. J. Levanduski, Pvt. J. J. Luther, Pfc. J. A. Matti, Pfc. M. M. Mendofik, Pvt. N. A. Mikolaczyk, Pvt. G. N. Miller, Pvt. C. A. Moore, Pfc. E. Perezdejesus, Pfc. J. M. Peters, Pfc. P. A. Petropoulos, Pvt. S. L. Price, Pvt. E. R. Rhoades, Pfc. J. C. Rodarte, Pfc. B. T. Rogan, Pfc. M. J. Tejada, Pfc. B. P. Ullmann, Pfc. M. G. Ullmann, Pvt. C. M. Wehr, Pfc. C. J. Weigel, Pvt. B. S. Wheeler

Platoon 1020

Pvt. H. A. Arias, Pvt. C. R. Artagos VI, Pfc. R. J. Best, Pfc. W. T. Briggs, Pfc. T. M. Brophy, Pfc. S. R. Castro, Pvt. K. W. Costello, Pvt. J. L. Creese, Pvt. J. T. Dean, Pvt. K. J. Donoghue, Pvt. M. T. Duggan, Pvt. D. J. Farnham, Pvt. R. R. Friasmarte, Pvt. J. V. Gozzolino, Pvt. G. J. Greco, Pfc. F. B. Green, Pfc. B. Gurary, Pvt. J. T. Haines, Pvt. A. T. Hinkes, Pfc. B. N. Horn, Pfc. K. Jimenez, Pvt. C. B. Mastin Jr., Pfc. E. E. Mastin, Pfc. J. E. Mcdonald, Pvt. I. Melendezramos, Pvt. J. A. Nolasco, Pfc. J. Paganmaldonado, Pvt. C. A. Parks, Pvt. D. R. Perry, Pfc. D. E. Preble Jr., Pfc. P. M. Preble, Pvt. B. A. Purcell, Pvt. L. E. Roberts, Pvt. P. Roquemartinez, Pfc. T. L. Schumacher, Pvt. A. C. Smith, Pvt. B. L. Smith, Pvt. J. A. Soucier, Pfc. G. L. Stacey, Pvt. S. T. Stewart, Pvt. S. G. Tompulis, Pvt. D. S. Tucker, Pfc. G. F. Vasquez, Pvt. J. I. White

Platoon 1021

Pvt. M. J. Allen, Pvt. D. W. Bailey, Pfc. R. M. Baugh, Pfc. J. R. Buoni, Pvt. M. F. Capellini, Pvt. E. J. Cheney Jr., Pfc. G. S. Compton, Pfc. P. Cortellucci, Pvt. A. I. Cox, Pfc. V. C. Davidson, Pvt. S. F. Deeg, Pvt. J. F. Domingo, Pfc. D. M. Douglas, Pvt. N. J. Ganglfinger, Pfc. J. W. Graham, Pfc. M. D. Gray, Pvt. G. A. Hall, Pvt. D. R. Head, Pfc. Z. T. Hopkins, Pvt. K. P. Huguelet, Pfc. J. L. Jacks III, Pvt. J. D. Kalanik, Pvt. D. J. Laza, Pvt. C. A. Maldonado, Pvt. D. L. Marinelli, Pfc. A. A. Milanese, Pvt. K. T. Moore, Pfc. G. M. Motabbir, Pvt. S. J. Nesbitt Jr., Pvt. S. J. Neumandehaan, Pvt. J. D. Nevers, Pvt. L. C. Nitkiewicz, Pvt. B. R. Proctor, Pvt. J. F. Renda, Pfc. D. J. Rodriguez, Pfc. S. S. Saball, Pvt. V. T. Schmidt, Pfc. J. J. Stair, Pvt. R. J. Steven, Pfc. F. W. Stone, Pvt. N. J. Surovic, Pvt. K. L. Turner, Pfc. C. M. Wheeler, Pfc. J. S. Wolfe

Platoon 1022

Pvt. A. S. Abram, Pvt. E. W. Brockwell, Pvt. R. Camejo, Pvt. H. C. Cantrell, Pvt. J. R. Congrains, Pvt. J. A. Cortez Jr., Pvt. R. P. Darling, Pfc. J. R. Dieter, Pvt. E. Z. Esmail, Pvt. J. H. Evans, Pvt. C. J. Fonseca, Pvt. D. K. Furqan, Pvt. S. Grisales, Pfc. C. M. Hager, Pvt. R. C. Hager, Pfc. A. J. Hall, Pfc. J. W. Hayes, Pfc. N. J. Jaconetta, Pvt. T. E. Janis, Pfc. T. M. Joliet, Pfc. J. L. Jones, Pfc. N. A. Jones, Pfc. J. T. Kimble, Pfc. Z. C. Land, Pfc. C. I. Marin, Pfc. M. A. Mazzeo, Pvt. K. A. Mcalister, Pvt. C. W. McMinn, Pfc. K. J. Modschiedler, Pvt. S. Monforte, Pvt. J. R. Mooney, Pvt. M. J. Mulvaney, Pfc. J. C. Neely, Pvt. J. C. Nutter, Pfc. C. G. Oconnor, Pvt. D. J. Ortiz Jr., Pvt. B. T. Osterhoudt, Pvt. B. M. Rice, Pvt. P. J. Richard, Pfc. W. Rodriguez Jr., Pvt. J. P. Russo, Pfc. J. M. Samson, Pvt. J. L. Tejada, Pfc. J. S. Wheeler, Pfc. D. G. Wintermyer Jr., Pvt. Y. Wolosen

Platoon 4008

Pfc. L. M. Adair, Pvt. M. M. Bailey, Pfc. C. M. Biegel, Pvt. C. Calderon, Pvt. A. L. Castillo, Pvt. S. D. Clements, Pfc. E. F. Cobb, Pfc. B. A. Coventry, Pfc. K. A. Delaney, Pfc. S. V. Delcore, Pvt. F. Diallo, Pvt. S. L. Dixon, Pvt. E. R. Domingojimenez, Pvt. P. T. Doughty, Pvt. E. P. Eaton, Pvt. R. R. Espinaldiaz, Pvt. J. L. Fletcher, Pvt. C. L. Gotta, Pvt. K. L. Grissett, Pfc. E. D. Groves, Pfc. C. N. Harden, Pvt. D. V. Hernandez, Pvt. A. Hernandezvalles, Pvt. E. D. Higgins, Pvt. R. V. Hilzman, Pfc. S. K. Hudson, Pvt. L. M. Hutchens, Pfc. K. J. Jenkins, Pvt. P. A. Jimenez, Pfc. K. L. Jones, Pvt. Q. L. Jones, Pfc. M. L. Kinsley, Pfc. E. R. Kirk, Pvt. R. J. Kitchenmaster, Pvt. P. E. Lawrence, Pvt. J. E. Moore, Pvt. M. A. Murray, Pvt. M. R. Noble, Pvt. C. P. Pichardo, Pvt. S. R. Rader, Pvt. E. K. Richardson-Davis, Pvt. K. K. Rodriguezarango, Pvt. C. L. Santana, Pvt. A. A. Schneider, Pfc. M. E. Seely, Pfc. L. M. Strickland, Pfc. J. M. Thompson, Pvt. L. R. Trevino, Pvt. J. Urrutia, Pfc. J. M. Viscuso, Pvt. J. A. Wallace, Pvt. B. D. Washington, Pvt. D. Zamora

Platoon 4009

Pfc. C. K. Acevedo, Pfc. J. Alcala, Pfc. E. M. Balasabas, Pfc. T. M. Bauer, Pvt. C. M. Beal, Pvt. M. D. Blackwelder, Pvt. B. L. Blouvet, Pfc. K. R. Burgess, Pvt. D. A. Carrillo, Pvt. A. M. Carroll, Pfc. A. G. Chaparrormorales, Pvt. K. Corralmarinez, Pvt. R. S. Dotson, Pvt. R. C. Dunhamkapaldo, Pfc. H. L. Flores, Pfc. B. K. Gagner, Pvt. T. M. Gamarra, Pfc. K. R. Garcia, Pvt. C. M. Graham, Pfc. L. J. Hall, Pfc. L. N. Hall, Pfc. M. L. Heotis, Pvt. S. L. Heroth, Pvt. P. S. Kausalik, Pfc. J. L. Kinman, Pfc. R. S. Kreiser, Pvt. K. R. Kuehni, Pvt. B. Lampe-zaic, Pfc. E. A. Madson, Pfc. B. M. McCollister, Pfc. M. M. Moerman, Pvt. L. L. Moreno, Pvt. C. E. Nabanoba, Pfc. C. Perez, Pvt. K. M. Pierce, Pfc. S. N. Pineda, Pfc. L. Ramirez, Pfc. D. C. Riddle, Pfc. J. N. Rijken, Pvt. E. Rivera, Pvt. A. R. Robancho, Pvt. G. Rocha, Pvt. K. Roth, Pfc. J. M. Schalchlin, Pvt. R. E. Scipioni, Pvt. V. R. Shea, Pvt. L. M. Sherwood, Pvt. A. R. Soriano, Pvt. P. Suarezherrera, Pfc. S. R. Taylor, Pfc. C. M. Trickey, Pfc. E. M. Tschacher, Pfc. A. J. Wood

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Oscar takes on Crucible

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Oscar Company recruits were almost done at the Battle of Fallujah, an event of the Crucible on March 22.

The recruits grimaced. The midday sun beat down on them. They were sweating, and the sand they were crawling through was caked onto their clothing and faces. But a football field-long pit of sand still stood between their frustration and a breath of fresh air.

"The sand is hot. You're sweating," said Rct. Autumn Robancho, an 18-year-old from Bakersville, Calif., and Platoon 4009. "You get headaches because of the heat, but there are people in Afghanistan right now who are going through worse than what we have to go through."

The Battle of Fallujah begins at a terrain model in the middle of the woods where the recruits are briefed on their mission. Afterward, they stage themselves inside of a mock helicopter. They exit the wooden structure and head for the tree line.

Tactically advancing through the forested area, the recruits are faced with the challenge of getting over walls and rope bridges before eventually getting to cement tunnels. Combat noises blast from speakers overhead.

They crouch through an obstacle, rush over a bridge and climb another wall. Once over, the recruits drop low to the ground and crawl through sand, under barbed wire and razor wire, at times, assessing "casualties" along the way.

"Once you start getting into casualties,

you have to drag your buddies," said Sgt. Christopher Proffitt, event leader for Event 4. "It gets hot. You get sweaty – tempers flare."

During the exercise, Robancho "died." She said she was worried when her teammates could not get her out of the "danger zone." Then, the roles switched.

"It frustrates you after a while, because you want to be able to do it so bad," Robancho said. "But physically, sometimes you can't do it. Still, you got to try because they're your sisters and brothers and you have to get them out of there."

Every time the recruits took too long, they were sent back to the wall to begin crawling again.

"I saw the importance of teamwork," said Rct. Emily Kirk, a 20-year-old from Norfolk, Va., and Platoon 4008. "I got paired with another recruit to help pull out one of the victims. It took a lot from us."

Kirk said her and her partner had to work quickly to figure out the best method to get the "casualty" out of the "danger zone."

"They let [the pain] get to them instead of pushing through," said Sgt. Malina Shippen, a drill instructor for Platoon 4009.

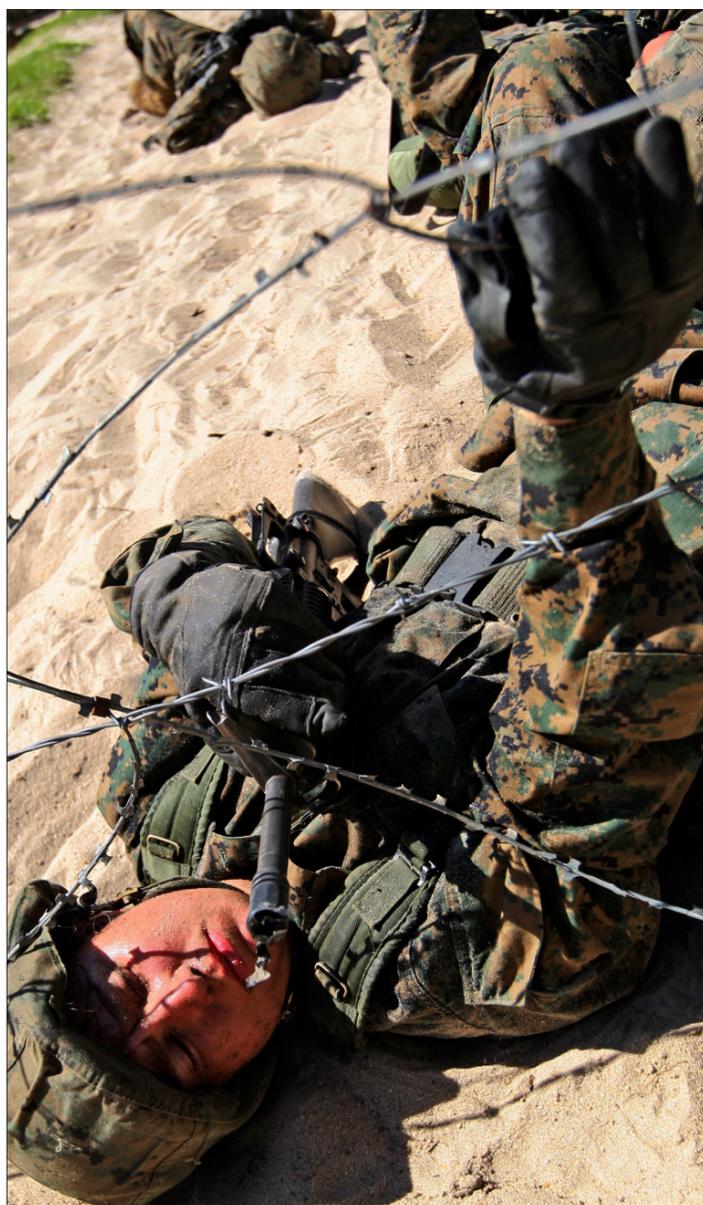
If recruits get frustrated, they tend to stop caring about the others in their platoon, Shippen said. It affects teamwork and unit cohesion.

To finish the Crucible, the group will have to pull together and get past their own selfish wants, Shippen said.



Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Recruits from Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, practice casualty evacuation drills during a Crucible event known as Battle of Fallujah on March 23.



Rct. Margaret Bailey, a 19-year-old from Mount Pocono, Pa., and Platoon 4008, crawls under concertina wire during a Crucible event.



Rct. Amber Carroll, a 19-year-old from Pittsburgh, and Platoon 4009, crawls through a portion of a Crucible event.



Rct. Laura Trevino, a 20-year-old from Lubbock, Texas, and Platoon 4008, pours with sweat while crawling through the sand.

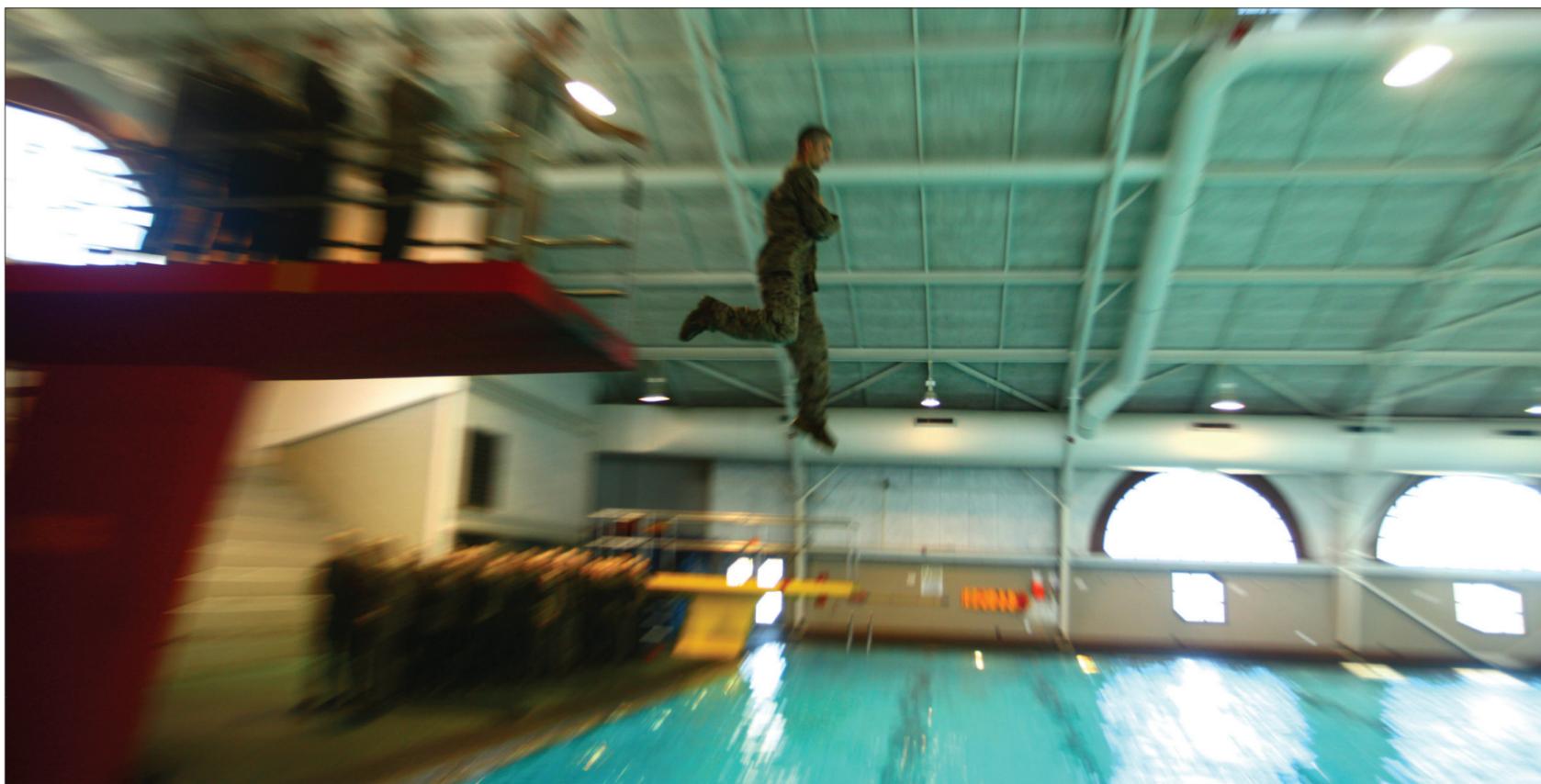


Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

A recruit from Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion jumps from a 10-foot tower into the recruit training pool Jan. 30. The recruits of Alpha Company and Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, must complete swim qualification before progressing with their training.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashlee McDonough

Recruits swim their initial 25-meter shallow-water evaluation at the recruit training pool Jan. 30.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashlee McDonough

Recruits listen to an initial brief before their swim qualification at the recruit training pool Jan. 30.

SPLASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The second evaluation is jumping from a 10-foot platform into the pool to simulate abandoning a sinking ship, then swimming 25 meters to "safety."

During the third portion of evaluation, the recruits must spend four minutes keeping their heads above the surface in the deep end with techniques they learned earlier. The techniques include treading and inflating their blouses with their breath to create makeshift flotation devices.

The recruits' fourth evaluation is the employed flotation. They use an Improved Load Bearing Equipment pack, and pull it 25 meters from 11 feet of water to four.

The final test is the gear shed. The recruits jump into the shallow end wearing flak jackets, Kevlar helmets and throat protectors, with rubber rifles in their hands.

The purpose of the event is to get the recruits conditioned to getting the gear off their bodies in an aquatic environment if they need to, said Staff Sgt. Jim McCord, a swim instructor.

"We give them every opportunity we can here," Kayto said.

Each recruit is given two chances each day of the week to pass the evaluations. Recruits who are unable to pass the tests are recycled back through training and will resume with the next training company.

"It's difficult swimming with clothes and boots on," said Rct. Zack Hopkins with Platoon 1021, Alpha Company. "It's tough but I like being challenged and I like the feeling of pushing myself. I know once I get past this, I'll be a step closer to my goal of being a Marine."

Teacher enlists to earn the title Marine

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

A former teacher graduates recruit training today with Platoon 4009, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, after being inspired to enlist by a recent trip to the depot.

Pfc. Megan Moerman, a 28-year-old from Richmond, Va., was a high school teacher before making the decision to go after the title few ever earn.

"I always thought that I wanted to be a teacher and was pushed by my family to make a career in the field," she said. "But then I started teaching and [it wasn't for me]. In order to change careers and do something that I wanted to do, I joined the military."

Moerman made the decision to enlist after attending an educator's workshop, she said. An educator's workshop brings teachers to Parris Island and shows them the transformation their students go through from high school student to United States Marine.

Although many people with a college degree would have chosen to commission instead of enlist, the wait to become a Marine officer was longer than to enlist, she said.

"She chose the Marines because they are very professional and wanted to be better than every other branch," said Joseph Turner, Moerman's boyfriend of almost four years and a veteran Marine. "She saw what the Marine Corps was like during my time in the Corps. Seeing the friendship and esprit de corps that we have toward each other was a huge impact on her."

Moerman said the physical challenges of the Marine Corps also attracted her.

"I was a lazy person, unorganized and didn't feel very 'adult,'" she said. "I needed the discipline. And as a teacher, not having that discipline was not a good thing."

Moerman said she has learned a lot in recruit training and bettered herself.

"I was a shy person, so if it was a challenge, I wouldn't necessarily take it on," she said. "Having the confidence to speak publicly or speak to a drill instructor was pretty hard."

She said that knowing she has the confidence and the discipline to take on a challenge now shows her she can be a good Marine.

"Some of her family was less than excited for her to join, but they quickly came around when they saw she really wanted to be a Marine," Turner said.



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

After attending a workshop that introduces educators from around the country to training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Pfc. Megan Moerman, a 28-year-old from Richmond, Va., decided to become a Marine. Moerman was formerly a high school teacher.

"Her co-workers were very supportive when she announced her decision. They were sad to see a skilled teacher leave the school, but were happy she was going after her dream."

Moerman hopes her experience in the Marine Corps involves physical challenges and traveling the world. She enlisted to become a combat engineer.

"Moerman is a perfectionist at heart," Turner

said. "She wants to do every job to the best of her ability. Moerman is the kind of person the Marines are looking for."

"I think she will be happy in the Marine Corps," Turner said. "Marines want to be the best and through their hard work, they are recognized and rightfully promoted above their peers. Finally her full skill set will be recognized, and she will excel."

RECYCLE



Rct. Daisy Zamora, a recruit from Platoon 4009, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, crosses a set of pipes during the Confidence Course on Jan. 25.

OSCAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the A-Frame, Baird said.

These obstacles require the recruits to get high off the ground, often challenging the recruits will.

“You need to have confidence in yourself and your training in order to complete it,” Baird said.

That is where drill instructors do their part to help motivate their recruits through the obstacles.

“I’m scared of heights, but my senior drill instructor told me that every Marine gets tired, and they still have to do their job,” said Pfc. Daisy Zamora, a 19-year-old from Chicago. “So I put all my selfishness aside, and I did my best to get up there.”

Recruits also have personal reasons to complete the obstacles. Those recruits who finish the obstacles have the honor of announcing what platoon they belong to and who their senior drill instructor is.

It took Zamora, who is barely five-feet tall, a while to finish climbing the A-frame, but after fighting her fears, she completed the once daunting obstacle.

“[Recruits] let the obstacles get the best of them and feel defeated before they start,” said Gunnery Sgt. Tiffany Guillory, Zamora’s senior drill instructor.

Guillory said recruits come out mentally stronger after finishing the course.

“It builds that confidence that causes them to believe more in themselves and their abilities,” she said.

Guillory said the course also feeds the recruits’ warrior ethos. It teaches recruits not to give up on themselves, encourage each other and push through even in the face of adversity.

Warrior ethos is comprised of three things: mental, character and physical discipline, Baird said.

“You have to be mentally strong to accomplish these obstacles, as well as have some sort of physical strength and endurance to be able to execute these obstacles properly,” Baird said. “You have to look into your character to find what’s going to help you and motivate you and your buddies to the left and right of you, and give you the confidence to accomplish whatever task is presented – that ties in to the whole Marine warrior ethos.”

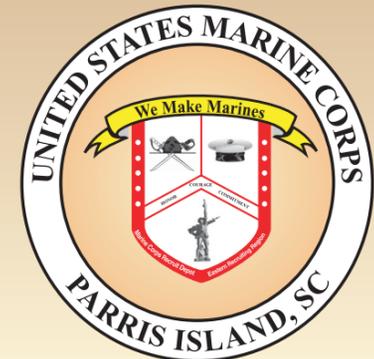


Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Recruits with Oscar Company help each other reach the summit of an obstacle. The obstacles of the Confidence Course are meant to take recruits out of their comfort zones and instill confidence in themselves and their teammates.

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND EXPANDED FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

MCRD Parris Island has expanded the events and activities available to families who are coming aboard the Depot to see their son or daughter graduate and become a Marine. The adjacent schedule outlines the events that are now offered to our new Marines’ families and loved ones. The times and locations of these events are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit <http://www.mccs-sc.com/recruitfamilies>.



Wednesday

Welcome to Family Orientation Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7:30AM-4PMDouglas Visitors’ Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (9AM-11:30AM)
Graduation Station (8AM-4PM)
- 9AM-4PMFamily Check-in at the Douglas Visitors’ Center; Java Café open 9AM-12PM
- 10AM-12:30PMMarine Corps 101, including a “Behind the Scenes” tour, at Douglas Visitors’ Center
- LUNCHTraditions (Officer/SNCO Club), Food Court, Subway, Golf Course, Back Yard Burgers
- 1:30PM-3:30PMFamily Orientation Brief at the Lyceum
- 5PM-8PMSteak Night at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club).
Reservations required

Thursday

Welcome to Family Liberty Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-4PMDouglas Visitors’ Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (6AM-2PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-4PM)
- 6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7AMMotivational Run - Peatross Parade Deck
- 8AMDepot Museum Opens
- 8:15AMAll Weather Training Facility (AWTF) Opens
- 9:30AM-10AMBattalion Commander’s Brief to Families & Liberty Ceremony (AWTF)
- 10AM-2PMMarksmanship Training Unit Open House
- 10AMLiberty Begins
- 10:30AM-1PMFamily Day Buffet at the Lyceum – new Marines eat for free!
- 2PMWarrior’s Prayer at the Recruit Chapel
- 3PMLiberty Ends
- 3PM-4PMMarine Corps 101 at Douglas Visitors’ Center
- 5PMMeet & Greet with Depot Command at Traditions Lounge
- 5:30PMWelcome from the Command
- 5:45PMFamily Day Dinner with Depot Command at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)
Advance reservations guarantee admittance

Friday

Welcome to Graduation Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-2PMDouglas Visitors’ Center open
Java Café (6AM-12PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-12PM)
- 6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7:45AMMorning Colors at Barrow Hall
- 9AM-10AMGraduation at Peatross Parade Deck (weather permitting)
- 11AM-1PMLunch Buffet at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

No reservations for reserve Marine

Sgt. John Jackson
1st Marine Logistics Group

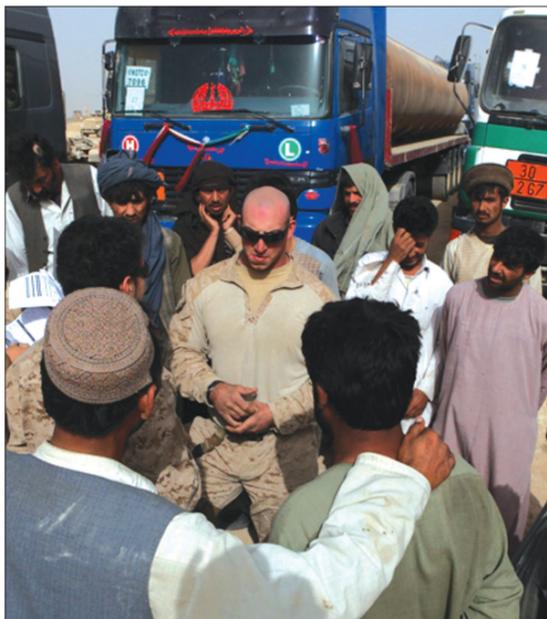
HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – For the past six months, Sgt. Matthew Branch has provided security for Afghan truck drivers while they deliver fuel to forward operating bases here.

Branch is the assistant security team leader for 1st Marine Logistics Group's General Support Motor Transport Company. He is a Marine Corps reservist attached to 4th Engineer Maintenance Company in Omaha, Neb.

Back home, the Kearney, Neb., native is accustomed to arriving at work at 6 a.m. and leaving around 3 p.m. Here, he must be sure the enemy does not affect his mission or harm Afghan drivers.

Branch is a maintenance technician at a clothing distribution center in civilian life. Fixing broken equipment is his specialty, but he has become proficient in his duties here as well, he said.

"This is my third deployment," said Branch,



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Matthew Branch, assistant security team leader for General Support Motor Transport Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group, speaks using an interpreter to Afghan truck drivers before leaving Forward Operating Base Edinburgh on March 17.

29. "I love to deploy. I like to be engaged with what the Marine Corps is doing."

During his current deployment, Branch has been responsible for getting fuel and other supplies to Marines stationed throughout Helmand

province.

"Our mission is to safely and expediently transport combat-essential gear and fuel to the Marines and service members throughout the [area of operations]," he said. "Our platoon has completed more than a dozen

missions, and we have been very successful at getting our job accomplished."

In addition to making sure fuel and equipment is delivered safely, Branch and his Marines also interact and work with local civilians.

"There is a language barrier, but it was definitely a unique experience," he said. "It gave us all a great insight and a great way to experience the local culture."

With his company's seven-month deployment nearing its end, Branch said he is looking forward to getting back to Nebraska to be with his family, but believes his time in Afghanistan has been a worthy accomplishment.

"I am ready to get in some good quality time with my wife and daughter," he said. "My wife is a very proud Marine Corps wife, and she is very supportive."

"This deployment has been a success. Any mission that was asked of the Marines, they got done and excelled at," he added. "We kept our convoys safe, the local nationals safe, and got our missions completed."



Photo by Sgt. John Jackson

Branch communicates with other Marines before a joint convoy with Afghan truck drivers March 13.

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME



Photos by Staff Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

Parris Island drill instructor Sgt. Marline Dominic gives future Parris Island recruit Rachel Murray, an 18-year-old student at Mankato State in Minnesota, a preview of things to come during a visit to members of the delayed entry program March 24 in Bloomington, Minn. Dominic is a 27-year-old native of Houston.

MP BY DAY, MECHANIC BY NIGHT

Cpl. Garry Welch
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

ABOARD USS ESSEX AT SEA, – Every Marine and sailor aboard the USS Essex serves a crucial role in the success of the mission, but Lance Cpl. Samantha A. Sabalboro serves two.

Sabalboro, an airframe mechanic with Marine Attack Squadron 311, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, was assigned to assist the master-at-arms in maintaining safety and good order for the more than 2,000 service members on ship.

Her responsibilities would normally require an eight-hour shift every day, followed by rest and

relaxation. But Sabalboro ends her day shift by donning her maintenance gear and making her way toward the AV-8B Harriers she is trained to maintain.

The 21-year-old native of Norfolk, Va., said she enjoys the work, the chance to meet new people and the opportunity to gain valuable experience outside of her normal specialty.

“Doing both jobs is not challenging for me. I like to stay busy,” said Sabalboro. “Working as a patrolman helps me gain more confidence in the way that I talk and take charge of something.”

During a normal day, if Sabalboro is not working

with the master-at-arms office, she spends 10 to 12 hours servicing Harrier airframes, repairing the body, landing gear and other vital parts.

Although fairly new to the job, Sabalboro still knows just how important her job is to pilot safety and mission accomplishment.

“If we failed to install a panel correctly, then it could potentially fall off midflight and injure somebody on the ground, or get sucked into the intake of the engine and bring the entire plane down,” Sabalboro said. “If we didn’t fix the landing gear right, then it may not come out when it needs to, and the

plane would crash when it landed.”

While working as a patrolman, Sabalboro helps the master-at-arms office with administrative work or patrols the ship looking for safety issues and activities contrary to Navy and Marine Corps regulations.

“She does an excellent job here. She is always on time and comes in with a good attitude,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos L. Jones, anti-terrorism training supervisor. “I usually see her back in her shop wearing her coveralls working after she leaves here, so she definitely keeps herself busy.”

Many Marines help



Photos by Cpl. Garry Welch

Lance Cpl. Samantha A. Sabalboro walks the decks of the USS Essex as a patrolman March 21.

the master-at-arms office with policing the crew, and their involvement is paramount to the completion of the Navy’s military

police mission.

“I think that without the Marines’ support, we wouldn’t be able to do our job,” said Navy Lt. j.g. Antonio Williams, the USS Essex security officer. “With more than 2,000 people on board, with just the guys I have, we wouldn’t be able to maintain law and order here. So their augmentation is definitely a huge benefit to us.”

Sabalboro even helped the 31st MEU complete its certification exercise. Acting as a part of the master-at-arms clearing team, she helped to ensure the route from the flight deck to the brig was clear when mock enemy prisoners of war were brought aboard.

“Overall, she is doing pretty well. She is filling two billets and still progressing in both of them,” said Staff Sgt. David Camacho, an aircraft division chief with Marine Attack Squadron 311 and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sabalboro said she is eager to continue working as a patrolman and airframe mechanic throughout the 31st MEU’s deployment to the Asia-Pacific region.



Sabalboro checks a speed brake on an AV-8B Harrier aboard the USS Essex. Sabalboro fills two billets on ship, working as a patrolman for eight hours and then as an airframe mechanic.